1/23/75

Dear Ian,

WW IV will go out by air today. As before, please add the actual added postage to the US$6.00 when you remit. I'll make a special trip to the post office to be sure it goes promptly and properly.

It is quite impossible for me to write what you ask. I can't begin to keep up with my own work. This time of the year we have our only regular income, from my wife's work as a tax consultant. This dumps much other work on me. And except for keeping the books, I have all the work to do with WW IV. Ranging from the promotion to the mailing, and the mailing begins with the packaging.

I had almostx completed the draft of a Watergate book in September and have not been able to resume it since. And there is incomplete JFK work of my own, work I had to suspend and want to resume.

After the Ray hearing I was so tired I had to go on a regular sleep schedule, getting closer to a normal night's sleep. Lately, however, I was just getting too far behind, so I'm now down to 4-5 hours' sleep and still can't get back to my own writing.

However, I owe you complete frankness. These reasons do prevent my writing for you. If they did not, I still would not be willing to associate with some of those you have asked. Not in any way. And I'm not going to get into a hassle or long explanations. I'll tell you what I feel and you can believe me or not.

One the one end I'm very fond of Dave Wrone and Bob Cutler. On the other I have refused to even go to the AIB's coming gathering of the nuts. And in the face of the written denunciation I sent them they have been silent. This is a gang that has set out to commercialize the assassinations and has succeeded financially. That they rip off the young is bad enough. But it is worse because they also corrupt the minds with the deliberate presentation of utter falsehood and fabrication they know will be exciting. It is the likes of these whom have destroyed them credibility of the few who do serious work. They do not even pretend to do their own work, so they are no more than cheap publicists at best.

Stealing the mind is much worse than stealing the money.

Also with friendly intent, and I can make an appraisal from these names, I tell you that what you plan is not a work of substance. I have no questions about your intent. But I do about whether you really know enough for what you have undertaken and whether it can, if you do complete it, serve a really useful purpose and whether in years to come you will look back on it with satisfaction. I think not.

Please understand that I could have merely told you I haven t the time and gone on to other work stacked on my desk. I have taken the extra time in your interest. The past tells me that candor is unwelcome but good conscience requires honesty and complete forthrightness. You may not like what I've said but in time you'll learn that it is telling it to you as it really is.

Best regards,